

7th February 1924]

Report of the Mappilla rebellion.

222 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the history of the recent Mappilla rebellion in Malabar for writing which Mr. Hitchcock, Superintendent of Police, was placed on special duty has been published;

(b) when the book will be available for the public; and

(c) how many copies were printed and how much it has cost, including the author's salary for the period he was employed on special duty?

A.—(a) No.

(b) & (c) Mr. Hitchcock's book is intended only for official use. The Government are, however, contemplating the publication of an abridged edition for sale to the public and until this point has been decided they cannot state what the total cost of the publication will amount to.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—“May I know if the Officer on special duty has submitted his report to the Government?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“The Government have received the manuscript from the Special Officer, and it is in the press.”

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—“May I know what the price of a copy of the report will come to?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“I do not think the price has been fixed.”

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—“Will the hon. Member be pleased to give a copy to the Legislative Council library?”

(No answer.)

Military.

The Indian Territorial Force.

223 Q.—Mr. M. RATNASWAMI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(1) in what manner and to what extent the Madras Government have so far encouraged the formation of Indian Territorial Force units in the Presidency;

(2) the present strength of the Indian Territorial Force in the Presidency; and

(3) the parts of the Madras Presidency where these units have been formed?

A.—(1) The Government have provided an Indian Territorial Force Advisory Committee as required by the Act. The Government, in addition to requiring Collectors to lend all possible assistance to the Military officers charged with the raising of the territorial units, have placed facilities in the way of Government servants joining the Force, subject to the requirements of the service and the responsibilities which service entails, and have agreed to pay those who join the difference between their military and civil pay during training when the latter is higher than the former.

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(2) The sanctioned strength of each unit is 740. The Government have recently received a report from the Military authorities that the units were nearly up to strength.

(3) The four Indian Territorial Force units in the district are as follows :—

11/3rd Battalion, Madras Regiment (Trichinopoly).

12/3rd Battalion, Madras Regiment (Malabar), (Cannanore).

13/3rd Battalion, Madras Regiment (Malabar), (Cannanore).

14/3rd Battalion, Madras Regiment (Coorg), (Mercara).

Sanction for the formation of three extra companies of the University Training Corps has also been obtained and this Corps has been designated No. 5 (Madras) Battalion, University Training Corps.

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—“ Will the hon. Member in charge be pleased to state whether any, and, if so, what action has been taken to form a Territorial Force in the Central and the Northern districts ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I think the answer to this question is contained in the printed answer to clause (1). ”

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—“ My question is whether the special circumstances which exist in the Southern districts, especially in Malabar which has two Territorial units, do not exist in the Central and Northern districts to make it necessary to have a Territorial unit there ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ My answer to that will be that the decision where it is best to raise a unit rests with the Military authorities who act in consultation with the Government. I am not prepared to say off-hand whether the Military authorities would be able to raise a unit in the Central and Northern districts or not. If the Military authorities think it possible to raise a unit in these districts, the Government will be prepared to support them. ”

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ In the districts of Godavari and Kistna there are a number of men prepared to undergo training in the University Training Corps. ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am quite aware of it. But whether there is a sufficient number forthcoming or not, I do not know. I have no doubt that if my hon. Friend would get into touch with the officer most concerned in raising the battalions and give him all this information, he would be very thankful to him. ”

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—“ Will the Government and the hon. Member in charge be pleased to help the formation of Territorial units in the Central and Northern districts ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I shall be delighted to do so. ”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ Once upon a time there was a great deal of agitation for the formation of an Andhra regiment. Therefore, the hon. Member will be well advised to do something in regard to that. ”